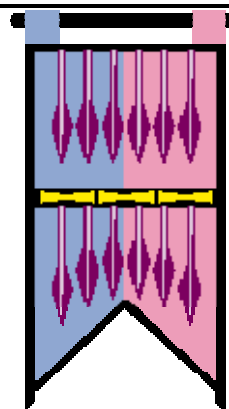


MONTANA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION

Advisory to the

*Office of Public Instruction
Board of Public Education*

*% Office of Public Instruction
Indian Education Specialist
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April 2, 2005

Red Lion Colonial Inn, Helena, Montana

Members Present

Robin Bighorn	Fort Peck Tribes
Norma Bixby	Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Everall Fox	Office of Public Instruction
Lynn Hinch	Montana Association of Bilingual Education (alternate)
Robert Murray	Montana School Boards Association
Carol Juneau	Montana Indian Education Association
Joyce Silverthorne	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (alternate)
Corri Smith	MEA-MFT
Louise Stump	Chippewa-Cree Tribe

Guests

B J Granbery	Office of Public Instruction
Sandy Merdinger	Office/Commissioner of Higher Education

Members Absent

Excused

Nora Bird	Crow Tribe
Emma Core	Urban-Billings
Harold Dusty Bull	Blackfeet Tribe
Janice Hawley	Fort Belknap Tribes
Lloyd Irvine	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Sandra Murie	Montana Impact Aid
Leon Rattler	Montana Association on Bilingual Education
Voyd St. Pierre	Montana School Boards Association

Unexcused

Cal Gilbert	Board of Public Education
Ellen Swaney	Montana University System
Lucille Tucker	Urban-Missoula
John Walters	MIEA Parent

The meeting was called to order by Lynn Hinch, acting chairperson.

The members present did not make a quorum. The first agenda item discussed was the revisions to the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) constitution and bylaws. It was decided that a subcommittee consisting of Joyce Silverthorne, Norma Bixby, Carol Juneau, and Everall Fox would meet and make their recommendations to the full group.

GEAR UP

Sandy Merdinger gave an update on the GEAR UP grant. The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) is writing a new grant proposal, which is due April 11, 2005. Fort Peck Community College, Salish-Kootenai College and Montana State University-Bozeman are planning to submit applications for partnership grants.

The pool of schools for the new grant is statewide. Five schools currently with grants are not planning on continuing. No new schools included in the grant have less than a 60 percent poverty rate or fewer than ten students. The new proposal is similar to the previous one but the parental involvement will be strengthened. OCHE is also hoping to collaborate with partnership grants for regional professional development. The draft has been submitted to an advisory committee, the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and OCHE key staff, and other partners like the Student Assistance Foundation which will expand its commitment as a partner.

The GEAR UP program isn't included in the president's proposed budget for the U.S. Department of Education, but the Montana congressional delegation has pledged its support. There will be funding for the first year. Scholarships will remain in place. Fifteen \$20,000 Pathways scholarships will be awarded this spring. The Guaranteed Student Loan Foundation (GSLF) administers the scholarship program. Official notification of new grant funding be August 30, 2005. OCHE is hopeful to receive one of the 26 grants.

English Language Proficiency Assessment

Lynn Hinch gave a report on the English Language Proficiency assessment which will be administered for the first time next school year. There is an ongoing issue of accurate LEP identification. Joyce Silverthorne brought up the issue of students being identified in more than one subgroup on the state assessment for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). BJ Granbery said that the OPI doesn't have student level data to track the information. If the Legislature funds the request, it may be possible to build a data tracking system. However, the No Child Left Behind ACT currently requires the OPI to include students in every category in which they may appear.

Approval of Minutes

Norma Bixby and Carol Juneau arrived and Norma took over as chairperson of the meeting. She directed the meeting back to the approval of minutes.

Norma said MACIE needs to verify the status of Lucille Tucker and Emma Core. Corri Smith said it would be good to contact Missoula Public Schools asking for a name of a native teacher to represent that constituency. She said when the representative doesn't work directly in the schools it's a disadvantage. Joyce Silverthorne added that in the past Emma has brought in the parent perspective.

January 11, 2005, telephone meeting – a motion was made to approve the minutes by Robert Murray and Corri seconded. The minutes were approved.

There was a question on the Assessment Task Force report that Nancy Coopersmith was going to e-mail to MACIE. There was also a question about P-20.

February 8, 2005 telephone meeting – a motion was made by Robert to approve the minutes and seconded by Corri. The minutes were approved.

There was discussion of legislative action with regard to funds for tribal colleges on Indian Education for All and non-beneficiary payments. The tribal colleges need to talk about how they will use the money for writing histories and not just for equipment. As currently drafted there is \$2 million to be divided up in the OCHE budget as a line item. There was discussion regarding the need to revisit the plan for writing histories and how they will be used. There were questions and comments about things such as use by people unfamiliar with Native American studies, what information should go into them, and they must be user friendly.

Joyce Silverthorne moved that MACIE appoint a delegation to meet with Sheila Stearns to discuss the proposed HB2 budget for tribal colleges in our advisory capacity. This was seconded by Carol. The motion passed. It was noted that when Sheila is at the Montana Indian Education Association (MIEA) conference on Monday someone should talk to her and introduce the idea.

November 12-13, 2004, retreat – Robert made a motion to accept the summary of the retreat, which was seconded by Joyce. The motion passed.

There was discussion concerning various minute items such as formation and activity of committees. Norma asked Robin Bighorn which committee he would like to serve on. He asked about travel. It was stated that currently committee work has been done using conference calls but with new money from the Legislature MACIE should have some funds available. Robin would like to serve on the Evaluation and Data committee (Success in Schools).

There was an inquiry about the status of the request for special education data to be further disaggregated. Everall Fox said he would talk to Joan Franke to find out.

Norma asked about the summit report. Everall said it had been sent to all MACIE members. Carol made a motion that MACIE review the summit documents and prepare recommendations to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education (BPE) on how to proceed. She suggested picking out the top ten or so things that should be acted on. This was seconded by Robert Murray. The motion passed. Norma asked for members to do this. These will be Robert, Carol, Norma, and Everall. Joyce asked if e-mail work would be possible followed by a conference call. Carol asked if Bud Williams would be willing to facilitate and help with it. At Carol's suggestion Norma asked Robert to be chairperson of the Summit Recommendations Committee.

November 12, 2004, meeting – a motion to approve the minutes was approved by Robert and seconded by Corri. The motion passed.

There was discussion of various items before the vote. Joyce asked about suggestions, requests, and recommendations from the November 12, 2005, meeting. She was wondering how MACIE members will know for sure these are taken care of? Everall talked about a template for reporting that was used for the first time after the Whitefish meeting for reporting to the state superintendent and the BPE. The OPI needs to send this information back to the MACIE members so they know their questions and suggestions have been acted on.

We still need to follow up on Peggy Azure's suggestion that Indian Education for All receive some funding through GEAR UP and that it be included in the new grant proposal.

Indian Education for All

Senate Bill 152, an act defining "basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools" as required by Article X, Section 1(3), of the Montana Constitution; ..., introduced by Senator Ryan, has been passed and sent to the governor for signature. Norma Bixby pointed out the various provisions that will be helpful. Detailed language from House Bill 691 (which did not pass) could be used as a guide in implementation stages of Indian Education for All. There was discussion of the definition of limited English proficient (LEP) students, which is the federal definition. Once this becomes law, then Indian Education for All has to be addressed in the regular school funding.

Carol Juneau reported that there may still be some chance for more money for Indian Education for All with an additional \$6 million in funding. She described the legislative process that will unfold in the next couple of weeks and said it is still important to keep letters and calls coming that support the passage of this funding question.

MEA-MFT Conference – October 21-22, 2005

Everall Fox gave a report regarding planning efforts. Information and materials presented at the conference need to get into the hands of classroom teachers and must be what they can really use. The MIEA chairs would like to have a panel of about six people with Mike Jetty moderating. This would be an excellent chance to speak directly to teachers. It was suggested that in the future Indian Education for All should be the theme for the whole conference and each curriculum group should feature it in at least one session in their strand. Keynotes are the closest thing to a general session where you can catch all in attendance at the conference. Online presentations for credits are also being considered as the North Carolina model does. Teachers need the background knowledge in order to do a good job with choosing their materials, etc. Teachers have stated they need a finished product to use in their classrooms. It will be important for Montana tribes to review and be comfortable with what is being presented.

Carol Juneau pointed out that we don't want teachers to be scared into not doing anything because they are not sure they have checked with the appropriate sources to be sure of materials, etc. This is why plans to include information at all stages of knowledge is important. The first step is identifying what is currently available and creating a more user-friendly way of accessing that. Everything should be available on the OPI Web site.

Joyce Silverthorne said this brings back to light the Native American Studies endorsement concerns. Fifteen hours of any course work could lead to an unqualified person becoming the Indian Education for All "expert." The Native American Studies folks should be brought together to work on the endorsement.

School boards and administrators have to be brought up to steam as well on Indian Education for All; teachers can't do it on their own if they don't have support. Joyce said Joyce Decker Wagner, Lake County Superintendent, would be a good resource person along with the book she has written once it is published.

Corri Smith talked about the importance of emphasis in preservice for teachers so that Indian Education for All is completely embedded in everything they do. The Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards (PEPPS) are very important in this regard. College students suffer from the college professors not being prepared themselves to do the job of teaching Indian Education for All.

We need a visible presence at the Montana Conference on Educational Leadership (MCEL) and the School Administrators of Montana (SAM) conference. Montana Association of School Superintendents (MASS) meeting are attended by OPI already and Indian Education for All should be presented at these conferences. Eric Feaver has made a commitment to find and provide some money to cover Indian Education for All in the keynotes at the MEA-MFT conference.

Joyce asked about presenters that have been identified so far. Everall talked about putting the word out during MIEA to gather names of people who would be good to present at other conferences like MEA-MFT. We should make sure the various important topics are covered.

Recommendations

Several motions for recommendations were made by Carol Juneau.

The MACIE requests that the recommendations it will provide to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education (BPE) be incorporated in planning the activities and budget approved by the Montana Legislature for implementation of Indian Education for All in the 2005-07 biennium. The MACIE also requests that progress reports be provided to MACIE on an ongoing basis by the Indian education specialist in carrying out activities for Indian Education for All. This was seconded by Joyce Silverthorne and passed.

The MACIE requests the OPI and the BPE design and complete a thorough study of all public school districts in Montana to determine how they are doing in the implementation of Indian Education for All. A report should be prepared no later than December 2006. This was seconded by Robin Bighorn and passed.

As part of the above, the MACIE requests the OPI and the BPE develop criteria for identifying districts and schools at risk in the implementation of Indian Education for All in order to provide supportive services and resources needed. Norma Bixby suggested a survey for students. This was seconded by Norma and passed.

Joyce reminded us that MACIE needs to request a study by Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) on a Native American Studies endorsement.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Robert Murray and second by Robin Bighorn. The motion passed.

Approved: /s/ Louise Stump
Louise Stump, Secretary

Date: June 17, 2005